



ADRIAN M. FENTY  
MAYOR

Edmund C. Moy, Director  
United States Mint  
801 9th Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

February 28, 2008

Dear Director Moy,

Submitted for your consideration are revisions to the District of Columbia's submission for the reverse of the quarter-dollar coin. Though we respectfully disagree with the Mint's determination that the inscription "Taxation Without Representation" is controversial or otherwise unworthy of inclusion on U.S. Currency, we hereby submit an alternative inscription for all the designs, and a replacement narrative for the Stars and Bars concept.

Stephanie D. Scott, Secretary of the District of Columbia, will continue to be your liaison for this program. Please contact her with any questions you may have at [stephanie.scott@dc.gov](mailto:stephanie.scott@dc.gov) or 202-727-6306.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Adrian M. Fenty", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adrian M. Fenty

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA QUARTER DOLLAR COIN

### REPLACEMENT INSCRIPTION

Because the U.S. Mint has declined our request to use the inscription "Taxation Without Representation" on the District of Columbia Quarter, we hereby submit the inscription JUSTICE FOR ALL to be used in the Benjamin Banneker and Duke Ellington narratives.

### NARRATIVE TO REPLACE "STARS AND BARS"

#### FREDERICK DOUGLASS: ABOLITIONIST, ORATOR, STATESMAN, PUBLISHER

##### DESCRIPTION:

The three elements to be included in the design are:

- (1) a figure depicting Frederick Douglass, seated at or standing next to an image of his rolltop desk that still sits at Cedar Hill, with the caption "Frederick Douglass;"
- (2) the outline of the current boundaries of the District of Columbia, with or without one or both of the rivers (i.e. the design could include the outline of the three straight sides only, or the three straight sides plus the Anacostia River);
- (3) the inscription JUSTICE FOR ALL.

##### EXPLANATION:

Frederick Douglass, the noted orator and abolitionist, was born into slavery and earned his freedom by escaping to Rochester, NY. Douglass dedicated his life to speaking out against injustice for all Americans, in particular African-Americans and women. Frederick Douglass was nationally known in his lifetime, becoming the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia before President Harrison appointed him Minister Resident and Consul General of the Republic of Haiti and Charge d'Affaires for the Dominican Republic. Douglass chose to live in Washington, DC to be near the seat of power of the government as he advocated to end the institution of slavery. One of the most recognizable historical Washingtonians, Frederick Douglass epitomizes the District's struggle for basic rights in his escape from slavery, abolitionist cause, and the fight for women's suffrage. Cedar Hill, the home where Douglass spent the last 15 years of his life, is now a National Historic Site, run by the National Park Service.

## **2. BENJAMIN BANNEKER: ABOLITIONIST, MATHEMATICIAN, SCIENTIST, INVENTOR**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The three elements to be included in the design are:

- (1) a standing figure of Benjamin Banneker, dressed in the style of an 18<sup>th</sup> Century gentleman, as depicted on the USPS 1980 15¢ stamp (tri-corner hat, coat with tails, ascot, leather boots or buckled shoes), and the caption “Benjamin Banneker,” with or without surveyor’s instruments (e.g. tripod and looking glass);
- (2) a Diamond shape representing the original outline of the District of Columbia – a square stood up on one corner – with or without the Potomac and Anacostia rivers indicated (we prefer to have the rivers, if they do not interfere with the artistry of the coin);
- (3) the inscription JUSTICE FOR ALL.

### **EXPLANATION:**

Born in 1731 in Maryland, Benjamin Banneker was a free black, the son of former slaves. After learning to read and write, his education was largely self-taught, becoming a noted clock-maker, astronomer, and writer of almanacs. In 1791, when he was 60 years old, Banneker was hired as part of an official six-man team to help design and survey the land for the new capital city of the fledgling nation, making Benjamin Banneker among the first ever African-American presidential appointees. The symbolism of his presence, a gifted black man in attendance at the creation of the nation’s capital, along with his other remarkable accomplishments, is undeniably one of the most significant testaments to the rich legacy of the District of Columbia. Benjamin Banneker was a founder of Washington D.C., whose image and memory represent ingenuity and progress.

### **3. DUKE ELLINGTON: NATIVE SON**

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

The three elements to be included in the design are:

- (1) a figure depicting Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington, seated at or standing next to a whole or partial image of a grand piano, with the caption “Duke Ellington;”
- (2) the outline of the current boundaries of the District of Columbia, with or without one or both of the rivers (i.e. the design could include the outline of the three straight sides only, or the three straight sides plus the Anacostia River);
- (3) the inscription JUSTICE FOR ALL.

#### **EXPLANATION:**

Duke Ellington is an icon of Washington, DC history. He was born in the District of Columbia in 1899, raised in the LeDroit Park neighborhood, educated in DC Public Schools, and performed here as an adult. A symbol to Washingtonians of the local-boy-made-good saga of American life, Duke Ellington was recognized as the preeminent band leader and jazz pianist of his day. By the time of his death in 1974, Ellington earned 13 Grammy Awards and was bestowed with numerous honorary degrees and awards throughout the world, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1969. Honoring Duke Ellington on the DC Quarter is a fitting tribute to a man who played such an instrumental role in the history of jazz, the quintessential American musical form, and nods to the importance of musical contributions of all forms from the District of Columbia.